

PURPOSE

The Excellence in Transportation competition is conducted annually by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to recognize excellence in transportation design, construction, traffic operations, maintenance, planning, and improvements throughout California.

eligibility

Caltrans districts and corporate programs, local agencies and others, including their consultants and contractors, may enter any project located in California designed or constructed by that agency, firm, or person(s). The entry must be a public transportation improvement or new project completed in the last three calendar years inclusive of the current year, and presently in use. Projects submitted in previous competitions may be resubmitted if completed during the aforementioned time span. Winning projects from previous years are ineligible. A project may be entered in one category only.

recognition and awards

Two awards may be given in each category and subcategory; one for a state project and one for a local agency or private sector project.

Award plaques will consist of one plaque for each entity identified on the entry form (maximum of 4 plaques per project). Individuals contributing to a winning project will receive certificates of recognition.

JUDGING

Winning entries will be selected by a panel of judges not employed by the California Department of Transportation. Award winners will be announced in March of the upcoming calendar year.

SEND ENTRIES TO:

Janis DeVerter, Awards Coordinator
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street, Room 1200, MS 49
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-8879

additional information

A total of four entities may be identified as partners in a project. These may include other Caltrans districts, regions and programs, state, federal or local government partners, consultants, and private sector enterprises.

general criteria

1. Innovative engineering, design or construction
2. Functional efficiency
3. Safety, maintenance and operational factors
4. Compatability with or enhancement of the environment
5. Preservation/conservation of natural resources
6. Visual appeal or impact
7. Quality of user experience
8. Cost Benefit Ratio

entry deadline

Applications must be received by the Caltrans Awards Coordinator on the first Thursday in November of each calendar year by 5:00 p.m. All entries submitted by Caltrans districts and programs must be reviewed and approved for submittal by that district or program director (form letter available on Caltrans Excellence Awareness website).

entry forms are available online at:
www.dot.ca.gov/awards/

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, on audio cassette, or computer disk. To obtain a copy of these alternate formats, please call or write the Caltrans Awards Coordinator.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

ENTRIES MUST CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING, ARRANGED IN THE ORDER LISTED BELOW:

1. Six collated sets of the entry and narrative. Please do not staple or enclose in plastic sleeves. You may paperclip each set.
2. A list of persons contributing to the winning project (no more than 10).
3. A total of four 8"x10" color photos (of professional quality, no digital printouts) displaying two different views of the project - two photos of each project view. DO NOT enclose photos in plastic sleeves; DO place cardboard stays around photos to protect during mailing.
4. Label each print with project title, location, award category and name of entrant. Do not print directly on photo. Use label that has been marked prior to adhering to the back of the photo.
5. If using Caltrans photos, identifying data assigned by photo lab must appear on back of photos.
6. Submit no more than the required number of prints. Collages of smaller pictures may be submitted in the format of 8"x10" prints.
7. All materials entered become the property of Caltrans and will not be returned.
8. All pictures taken by photographers other than Caltrans staff photographers must include a signed photographer's release giving Caltrans the right to use and reproduce the photos in any manner without exception or additional charge (photographer's release form available on Caltrans Excellence Awareness website).

category

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Intermodal Transportation

Commuter/passenger rail, light rail, transit, airline, or other system-wide approach to integrated transportation

1

Connectivity/interface with multiple transportation modes
Effectiveness in reducing highway congestion
Enhancement of the transportation system

The highway-rural

2

Alignment and design
Preservation of the environment
Reintroduction of native vegetation
Use of innovative materials or processes

The highway-urban

3

Relationship to surroundings
Effective congestion relief
Safety improvements
Enhancement of the transportation system

Major Structures

Bridges, tunnels, overpasses, or interchanges

4

Visual impact
Selection of structural configuration and materials
Innovative design or construction methods

the environment

Landscape design, environmental technology, environmental enhancement, conservation, protection/mitigation/restoration, beautification, scenic preservation or improvement

5

Unique or unusual challenges resolved
Preservation or rehabilitation of existing structures
Native plant reintroduction
Improvement of urban environment
Use of recycled materials
Conservation of natural resources

transportation related facilities

Traveler facilities, noise barriers, roadside rests, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, parking facilities, maintenance stations, toll plazas, rail/air/seaport terminals

6

Intermodal transportation interface
Compatibility with environment
Use of recycled materials
Ease of construction
Signing and graphics

system operations

Operational improvements, cost savings

7

Improved transportation system performance
Improved or innovative procedure, material or equipment
Wide applicability

safety

Effective safety improvements or innovations

8

Reduction in accidents/injuries
Broad applicability

category

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

historic preservation/cultural enhancement

Preservation and/or restoration of historic, archeological, natural and cultural resources. Cultural/social enhancement, transportation art

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Rehabilitation and integration
Interpretation
Community benefits
Community involvement

MAINTENANCE

-operations or equipment

(please specify one or the other)

Roadside management, roadway maintenance, litter reduction, stormwater quality improvement, community outreach, resource conservation, cost-reduction, safety improvement, user benefits

10

Unique or improved procedures
Improved public relations
Innovative equipment and processes

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

Innovative and conclusive approaches that integrate and balance community, aesthetic, historic, and environmental value with transportation safety, maintenance and performance goals

11

Consistency with the "context"
Application of design flexibility
Responsiveness to community or resource issues
Public involvement process
Community/resource agency support

TRANSPORTATION INNOVATIONS

Crosscutting, solution driven, integrated approaches to improving mobility across California

12

New and improved products, materials, procedures and processes
Immediate and responsive
Practical and deployable
State of the practice

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

One-time or ongoing effort to inform public of transportation projects and programs, ie., route closures, new construction, safety campaigns, environmental enhancement

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Need for and objective of campaign
Target audience
Clarity of message and theme
Results